

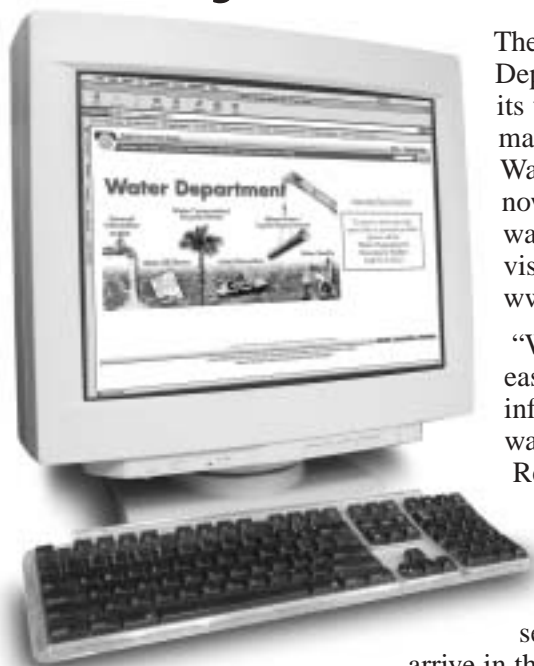
# Water Resources Report

*A Publication of the City of San Diego Water Resources Management Program*

Issue #5

Annual Edition

## Web Pages Expanded to Include Recycled Water Program Information



The City of San Diego Water Department recently expanded its web pages to include information regarding its Recycled Water Program. Anyone can now learn more about recycled water use in San Diego by visiting the web site at [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water).

"We're happy that it's now easy for customers to access information about recycled water," said Hossein Juybari, Recycled Water Program Manager. "Instead of having to call us for program information and then waiting five to seven days for the materials to

arrive in the mail, customers now have the ability to instantly access a wide range of Recycled Water Program information at any time."

Recycled water is wastewater that has been treated to a level suitable for a variety of non-potable applications.

"Around the world, billions of gallons of recycled water have been used for irrigation, toilet flushing, cooling towers, dust suppression and construction," said Juybari. "More importantly, the use of recycled water for irrigation and industrial applications helps to conserve and protect our drinking water supply."

From the treatment process to recycled water distribution, the web pages hold the answers to many questions. The City of San Diego's Water Department is working hard to help meet the city's long-term water needs by efficiently managing our water resources. For more information on the Recycled Water Program, or any other Water Department program, visit our web site at [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water).



## Soaking Up Good Outdoor Water-Use Behaviors

*Maintaining a Healthy, Vibrant Landscape Can Be Water-Wise*

We've all seen it. Those awful yellow – sometimes brown – patches on the lawn that aren't getting enough water. Even worse is the lawn that is lush and green, but is a swamp underneath. Finding the appropriate application rate and device to water lawns and landscaping can sometimes be an effort in trial and error. But, it does not have to be. In fact, a little research can help you to make some simple changes in the yard and conserve water at the same time.

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### Drop us a Line

Call the 24-Hour Water Conservation Hotline (619) 515-3500

Visit Our Website  
[www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water)



Conserving water and maintaining a healthy landscape becomes a challenge during the summer months; developing a water-efficient irriga-

tion system and schedule now will make your lawn and landscaping much easier to maintain year-round.

There are many factors in creating a water-efficient irrigation schedule that suits the needs of the landscape. "Plants need care," said Dan Carney, Landscape Architect for the City of San Diego's Water Department. "Healthy landscaping is about understanding the needs of your plants."

Getting familiar with the landscape and irrigation system not only helps diagnose potential problems, but it helps to foster good water-use behaviors.

Soil type is one of the most important aspects of the landscape that governs how much water should be used.

Different types of soils have different watering capabilities. For instance, sandy soils — more common in coastal areas — easily absorb large amounts of water and drain water quickly. Loam, a mixture of sand, organic material, and clay absorbs water less quickly than sand and water is retained in the root-zone longer. Clay is dense and does not absorb water quickly which means that short and repeated watering is needed to keep the root-zone well watered. Also, spray sprinklers and drip systems have different water pressures and coverage areas, and each are best suited to two different types of landscaping. By grouping irrigation fixtures appropriate to the plant's water needs, over-watering and under-watering can be minimized.

Irrigation scheduling also affects the development of good outdoor water-use behaviors. Watering early in the morning or after the sun sets reduces evaporation and decreases fungus problems. Irrigate only if needed, to maintain some moisture in soil. If the blades of grass easily bounce back after being stepped on, there is no need to irrigate.

For more information on properly irrigating your landscaping, visit the Landscape Watering Calculator at [www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation). The calculator allows users to estimate the correct amount of water to apply to the landscape by creating a customized watering schedule.

## Commercial Landscape Survey Program Focuses on Landscape Water Conservation

The Commercial Landscape Survey Program (CLSP) is designed for customers with at least one acre of irrigated landscape. It provides these customers a water-use survey and a water-use budget. These two key items provide the property owner with the tools necessary to cut water consumption and maintain existing landscaping.

"We are constantly looking for opportunities to help our customers save water," said Luis Generoso, Water Resources Manager for the City of San Diego's Water Department. "This program will help San Diego save 650 acre-feet of water per year which is enough to water to meet the needs of 1,300 average-sized families for a year. The upside for the customer is a lower water bill, and healthier landscaping."

The cutting-edge technology of the Water Resources Landscape Database (WRLD) will provide customers with water-budgets printed on their water bills. By combining landscape elements and weather data, WRLD provides an estimated water-budget specific to each parcel of property. The database is expected to greatly increase the effectiveness of the CLSP by allowing the customer to track and compare actual water-use against the recommended amount.

"Property-owners will be able to maximize irrigation by using WRLD," said Nora Jaeschke, owner of N.N. Jaeschke, Inc., a San Diego property management company. "It provides us information on how much water to use, and offers suggestions for when to water for greatest benefit."

The program is being administered by City of San Diego Water Department staff, who have been piloting the new program in partnership with the City's Park and Recreation Department. It is anticipated that 120 surveys and 600 water-budgets will be completed during the next year.



**Report Water Waste  
Call the 24-Hour  
Water Conservation  
Hotline at 619-515-3500**

# Landscaping is Not Only Beautiful, it's Beneficial.

Beautiful landscapes are a highlight of living in San Diego's mild year-round climate. Healthy landscapes contribute to our quality of life, economic vitality, and world-famous standing as a top tourist destination. But San Diego's semi-arid conditions also mean limited rainfall, which to many means we must limit water usage. Conservation is not just about using less water; it's about using only what is necessary. It's important to know that if you use water wisely, you can grow a beautiful landscape that provides a number of positive benefits.

While this may not be the traditional water conservation message, the City of San Diego's Water Department recognizes individual preferences and wants to assist homeowners in achieving significant water savings through proper landscape maintenance. This doesn't necessarily mean replacing existing landscaping with rock or cement.

"The key to healthy, efficient landscaping is to water it only as much as it needs it. Over-watering landscape is a waste of water and is what we would like to avoid, but efficiently watering landscaping benefits all of us," says Dan Carney Landscape Architect for the City of San Diego's Water Conservation Program.

Landscaping is good for the environment. Plants provide an environmental value that nothing else matches. For instance, a lawn just 50' x 50' absorbs carbon dioxide and

## The Landscape Corner



releases enough oxygen into the atmosphere to meet the needs of a family of four. Studies conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency indicate the average oxygen content of our air is 20 percent, but it has been measured as low as 12-15 percent in larger, more polluted cities. Plants and turf not only absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the atmosphere, but the plant system — leaves, roots, and soil — combine to remove toxins from the air.

As well as cleaning the air, plants and turf also reduce temperatures. A key advantage to landscaping around homes in

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## Is recycled water safe?











Yes, recycled water is absolutely safe. Water recycling projects have been designed and are operated to protect public health. Careful monitoring by the Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and state and local health departments ensures that the City of San Diego produces a highly treated, filtered and disinfected end product. The end product is distributed through a system of pipes and valves that are color-coded or marked with purple, the universal color designated to signify recycled water usage.

Recycled water is a reliable source of water available for irrigation and industrial uses. For more than 50 years, recycled water has been safely used throughout the country in recreational lakes, in sprinkler systems for commercial and industrial irrigation and in manufacturing processes. No health-related problems have been traced to any of the water recycling projects currently operating in California.



# Water Conservation Program Fun Facts

## Did You Know?

-  The average San Diegan uses about 88 gallons of water each day for both around the home.
-  San Diego imports 80% to 90% of its water.
-  If placed into gallon bottles, the 168 million gallons of water San Diego imports daily would encircle the earth more than one and a quarter times.
-  More than half of the water we use in the warmer months is used for outdoor irrigation.
-  97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% for consumption by all living creatures, including plants and animals.
-  If everyone in the US used just one less gallon of water per shower every day, we could save some 85 billion gallons of water per year.
-  If everyone in the US flushed the toilet just one less time per day, we could save a lakeful of water about one mile long, one mile wide and four feet deep.
-  Every glass of water brought to your table in a restaurant requires another two glasses of water to wash and rinse the glass. Since nearly 70 million meals are served each day in US restaurants, we'd save more than 26 million gallons of water if only one person in four declined the complimentary glassful.
-  If you sprinkle your lawn too lightly, the water does not go deep into the soil. The grass then develops shallower roots and becomes less drought-resistant. It's better to deep soak your grass, but doing it less frequently. To find out exactly how much water your lawn needs, any time during the year, create a free customized watering schedule ([www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation)).
-  Getting a cover for your pool can help prevent evaporation. An averaged-size pool with average sun and wind exposure loses approximately 1,000 gallons of water per month. A pool cover cuts the loss by 90%.




From page 3, *Landscaping is not only beautiful...*

San Diego is the reduction in ambient air temperatures. Research has shown that in summer, lawns are up to 30 degrees cooler than paved areas and 14 degrees cooler than bare soil. In addition to having a cooling effect, landscaping prevents runoff and erosion of top soil, can function as a fire retardant around your home, absorbs noise, and according to the American Nursery and Landscape Association, can add between 7 and 15 percent to your home's value.

Maintaining landscaping with regular, appropriate watering provides a gathering place for your family and cleans the air. A healthy, vibrant landscape does not need to be replaced by rock gardens in an effort to conserve water. Use and enjoy your landscape, but don't over-water it. An added benefit to appropriately watering landscape is that it requires less maintenance, allowing you more time to enjoy your landscape.

If you need more information on how to appropriately water your landscape, the City of San Diego's Water Conservation Program has an on-line landscape watering calculator that will provide you a customized watering schedule. Visit [www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation).



The City of San Diego

**Water Resources Report** is a publication of the City of San Diego Water Department, Water Resources Management Program.

For information call (619) 533-7556.  
Visit our website at: [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov)

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